

phasing down HFCs on all fronts. U.S. chemical producers and the refrigeration manufacturing sector have led the world in developing safe, effective, and commercially viable refrigeration chemical alternatives, namely hydrofluoroolefin, HFO, and hydrocarbon, HC; refrigerants, that neither pose significant threats to the ozone nor the climate crisis. In addition to making these technological advances, the industry has helped bring countries to the table and fully supports adopting an ambitious HFC amendment to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali.

The U.S. is taking bold domestic political action to promote a significant reduction in the use of HFCs in the marketplace by promulgating some of the world's most ambitious domestic HFC abatement policies. This action provides the U.S.'s delegation to the Montreal Protocol with a strong footing to lead by example when it comes to advancing an ambitious agreement to phase down HFCs globally as quickly as possible.

The United States and our North American neighbors Mexico and Canada have put forward one of the most ambitious HFC amendment proposals for consideration at MOP28. Moreover, our amendment has broad support from developing and developed countries on every continent. According to the State Department, more than 120 parties to the Montreal Protocol have expressed support for the policy concepts in the North American amendment proposal.

I want to congratulate the hard-working diplomats, negotiators, and policy experts at the U.S. State Department, the Commerce Department, and the EPA who have masterfully developed and rallied support for an ambitious proposal. While I am confident a deal on a new and effective HFC amendment to the Montreal Protocol is within reach, there is certainly still some diplomacy necessary with some very important parties to the Montreal Protocol, and I encourage our delegation to continue working with these parties in Kigali.

Phasing down the global presence of HFCs is the low-hanging fruit in the global effort to combat climate change. If we are going to be successful in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, we need to do the easy things first. So let's act fast and effectively to get potent HFC greenhouse gas reductions as soon as possible. These are noncontroversial steps we can take to abate climate change that should absolutely have bipartisan support from Congress.

Thank you.

#### ENSURING JUSTICE FOR DISAPPEARED PEOPLES IN MEXICO

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to observe the second anniversary of the forced disappearance of 43 students in the Mexican state of Guerrero, a tragedy that continues to haunt the

students' families and friends. I also rise to speak to the endemic challenges posed by cases of missing and disappeared persons across Mexico and to appeal to President Pena Nieto and Mexico's political leaders to be more responsive and transparent on this critical issue.

On the evening of September 26, 2014, in a series of events that the New York Times has characterized as a "night of terror," local police from the town of Iguala turned their weapons on the civilian population and colluded with the criminal organization known as the Guerreros Unidos to target and terrorize students from the Escuela Normal Rural Raul Isidro Burgos, which is a teachers' college. By the end of that night, 6 people were killed, 25 were injured, and 43 students were forcibly "disappeared" in a tragic story that has echoed around the globe.

As links between the U.S. and Mexico abound and given the more than 33 million Mexican-Americans and Mexicans residing in the United States, the disappearance of the 43 students has been felt deeply throughout our country.

Whether it is in California, Texas, Arizona, Illinois, New York or Maryland, almost all of our States are home to large, dynamic Mexican-American communities that remain in contact with friends and families throughout Mexico. Many of our constituents have direct and personal ties to the tragedy that took place in Iguala and the broader crisis of unresolved disappearances in Mexico.

In the 2 years since the disappearance of the 43 students, it is important to recognize that there have been critical advances in the investigations. Moreover, I want to recognize the Government of Mexico's decision to work with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR, to create an Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts, GIEI—by its initials in Spanish—which has provided invaluable technical assistance for the investigation, as well as key recommendations to strengthen ongoing investigative efforts.

It is imperative to note, however, that the GIEI faced repeated obstacles such as restricted access to key documents and individuals and found significant inconsistencies in the Mexican Government's investigation, including incidents of mishandled evidence.

It is also important to note that the experts found evidence which indicates that members of the federal and state police may have joined the local police in colluding with the criminal organizations involved in the disappearance of the students. In addition, members of the Mexican Army's 27th Battalion were discovered to have been at the scene of the crime and closely involved in the fatal events of that night. And we cannot overlook the fact that 2 full years after the students' disappearance, there has not been a single criminal conviction in the case.

For these reasons, I urge President Pena Nieto and his administration to

take all necessary steps to make operational a special follow-up mechanism for the investigation the IACHR established in July. This follow-up mechanism will include two IACHR-appointed advisors responsible for working with Mexican authorities and monitoring further action on the group of experts' recommendations.

Continued progress on this case is critical. My staff has met directly with the families of the 43 students, and we cannot let their call for justice end in impunity. So whether it includes pursuing new leads, discarding flawed theories, granting broader access to case files, or removing officials who have obstructed the investigation, I appeal to President Pena Nieto and his administration to ensure that the investigation has the full political backing and sufficient resources to achieve the needed results.

I also want to speak to how the case of the 43 students is representative of the endemic challenge of missing and disappeared peoples across Mexico. According to its own statistics, since 2007, the Mexican Government has documented more than 28,000 cases of missing and disappeared people. In fact, in the months after the students' disappearance, as investigators and families of disappeared persons fanned out across Guerrero state, they encountered numerous mass graves of victims of unknown crimes and carnage. So the resolution of this case is particularly symbolic as it would give hope to the thousands of Mexican families who have relatives who have disappeared.

I want to recognize President Pena Nieto's decision to submit draft legislation last December for a general law to prevent and punish the crime of disappearances, which would establish obligations for federal, state, and local authorities and improve coordination across jurisdictions. I appeal to members of the Mexican Senate and Chamber of Deputies to pass this important legislation. By prioritizing this issue and providing increased budgetary, forensic, and technological resources, Mexican authorities can ensure justice for the tens of thousands of Mexican families who have suffered the disappearance of a friend or loved one.

Finally, I want to call upon the State Department and our Embassy in Mexico City to use their diplomatic discussions with the Mexican Government to offer all relevant assistance and to underscore the importance of learning the truth about the disappearance of the 43 students and the broader issue of missing and disappeared people. We must stand ready to support our Mexican partners as they pursue justice in these critical cases, which have touched the lives of too many Mexicans and, in turn, our constituents here in the United States.

# 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 38TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the 38th Infantry Division, ID, and honor the soldiers of the 38th ID for their service to our Nation.

The division was first activated in August of 1917 as a National Guard division composed of units from Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The division was originally conducting initial training at Camp Shelby, MS, when a tornado touched down, prompting MG Robert L. Howze to give the 38th ID the nickname the "Cyclone Division." The Cyclone Division would later deploy to Europe during World War I and lost 301 soldiers.

The division returned to service in January 1941 in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor and the start of World War II. The 38th Infantry Division took part in the New Guinea, Southern Philippines, and Luzon campaigns where they would earn their second nickname, "the Avengers of Bataan," bestowed on them by GEN Douglas MacArthur.

The Cyclone Division also served in the Vietnam war where the Company D Rangers, 151st Infantry of the 38th ID were among a few National Guard units to serve and became one of the country's most highly decorated units.

Since September 11, 2001, the 38th ID has sent soldiers to serve in a wide range of missions, including Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia, Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The 38th ID also answered a different kind of call when it assumed command of all National Guard elements deployed in Mississippi in response to Hurricane Katrina. The 38th Infantry Division continues to deploy soldiers worldwide in support of our national defense.

I am proud to honor 38th Infantry Division soldiers past and present on this special anniversary. Thank you to the men and women of the Cyclone Division for their steadfast defense of our Nation and their service to their home States, including Indiana. I wish the 38th Infantry Division another 100 years of setting an exemplary standard for our total force.

## 17TH HONOR FLIGHT OF HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the veterans of the Honor Flight Northern Colorado and the organization's 17th trip to Washington, DC. More than 120 veterans have traveled to our Nation's Capital to visit the memorials that stand in their honor. This group includes veterans from various wars and generations, but all are linked by their service to our country.

Ten years ago, the Honor Flight was created to fly veterans that had served

in World War II to Washington, DC, so they could visit the World War II memorial. Now, the Honor Flight welcomes veterans from across the country to fly to Washington, DC, free of charge, to visit the memorials of the wars in which these heroic veterans fought. No words are sufficient to show the gratitude and respect we all have for the courageous men and women who have protected our Nation. These veterans have preserved our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Of the 123 veterans on the most recent honor flight, 20 served in World War II, 34 served in Korea, and 69 served in Vietnam.

Please join me in honoring Fredric Arnold, Gene Bennett, C.H. Clark, Lillian Crosley, Raymond Dickey, Darwin Dixon, James Edmisten, Jimmie Godsey, Louis Hamman, Delbert Haynes, John Hess, Robert Horton, Dolores Kochheiser, Harry Maroncelli, Elmer McGinty, Frank Occhiuto, Robert Schueneman, Raymond Valadez, William VanBeber, William Way, Richard Bernhardt, Harold Bohm, Lee Boylan, George Brandt, Casper Brixius, James Comer Jr., Russell Daniels, Ralph Darrough, Ross DeBey, Garold Fox, S. Gilbert Garcia, Ronald Gillam, William Harrison, Virgil Hecker, Allan Hedberg, Dennis Lance, Gordon Leben, Albert Lowe, Jimmy Martin, Francis McKenna Jr., Ernest Medialdea, James Montgomery, Delmer Moss, James Petrie, William Pool, Carroll Quick, Robert Ray, Kennedy Roode, Al Schott, William Sherman, James Shuey, Donald Trettenero, Herbert Wenger, Eugene Ziehme, Roy Armstrong, Wilbur Boegli, Cary Bott, Thurman Bradley, Claude Buehrle, Robert Bullard, John Carpenter, Terrence Carroll, Robert Cofone, Larry Coldren, Paul Conley, Byron Daniels, Robert Davis, Mark DeDecker, Michael Doherty, Gary Dorsey, Mark Drake, Dale Eggleston, Jerry Eldred, Gary Ellerman, Daniel Ferguson, William Fisher, Roy Friesen, Glenn Fulcher, Glenn Gaines, Jerry Graham, Paul Graves, Dwight Gutsche, Percy Hamilton II, Christopher Harris, Robert Hawkey, William Hellyer, Thomas James, Normann Kegerreis, Michael Krier, LeRoy Lawson, Harold Lif, Peter Lister, Jimmy Lofink, William Margheim, Dallas Maurer, Kevin McGrath, Richard Miller Jr., David Naylor, Wesley Nelson, Richard Norris, Larry Perkins, Robert Randall, Danny Robinett, Robert Rutz, Robert Schrader, Billy Schwindt, Jackie Scott, David Sellers, David Shigley, Tommy Silva, Kenneth Skoglund, Darrell Smith, John Smith, Farrell Spencer, Edward Stephens, Stanley Suichta, Martin Trembl, Kerry Tyler, Linda Tyler, Daryl Vande Hoef, Thomas White, Terry Willert, and John Young.

## TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN R. ANDREW MURRAY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the military service

of CAPT R. Andrew Murray on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard. I commend Captain Murray's Coast Guard career and offer my thanks for his 35 years of faithful service to our country. Although he has gone ashore for the last time as a coastguardsman, his commitment to public service continues in North Carolina. As a civilian, Captain Murray has acted as the elected district attorney of Mecklenburg County since 2011.

Captain Murray enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1980, serving 6 years of Active Duty as an aviation electronic technician and helicopter flight crewman. He then became a Reservist and received a commission as an officer through the Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination School, ROCI.

Meanwhile, Captain Murray graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1992 with a bachelor of arts in political science. He received a juris doctorate from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and he is a member of the North Carolina Bar.

Throughout his career as an attorney and eventually as district attorney of Mecklenburg County, Captain Murray also served in a number of roles as a Reserve officer. He acted as the senior Reserve officer of Group Charleston, SC; a senior analyst for the Coast Guard Counter Terrorism and Defense Operations Unit; and the senior Reserve officer of Sector Charleston, SC.

As a Reservist, Captain Murray has also been called to Active Duty. In 2013, he received the call to serve as the legal adviser for the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team in New Orleans, LA, where he contributed to Operation Deepwater Horizon, the Federal cleanup effort for the massive oil spill of 2010.

Captain Murray most recently served as the Western Rivers and Coastal Region senior Reserve officer for the Eighth Coast Guard District. He was responsible for monitoring the readiness of 870 Reservists assigned to the Coast Guard's Eighth District, which comprises of seven sectors, spans 26 States, and covers more than 12,000 miles of river and coastline. His outstanding leadership assured the availability of a robust reserve capacity to respond to all subsequent contingencies, including a 30,000-gallon fuel spill and extreme Midwest regional flooding. At his recent retirement ceremony, Captain Murray was honored with the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal for his leadership in this post.

Captain Murray's other decorations include three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Coast Guard 9/11 Service Medal.

I offer Captain Murray my warmest congratulations and appreciation for the many years he has spent protecting this Nation, saving lives, and performing his faithful duty as a U.S.